DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 210 005 IR 009 421

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TITLE Cooperation of the USSR National Public Library for Science and Technology with Libraries, Institutions and Specialists of the Developing Countries in the Field of Scientific and Technical Information.
PUB DATE Aug 80
NOTE 9p.: Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (Manila, Philippines, August 18-23, 1980).

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Developed Nations; *Developing Nations; *Information Dissemination; Information Needs; *Information Seeking; *Library Cooperation; *Library Services
IDENTIFIERS *Scientific and Technical Information; *USSR

ABSTRACT

This overview of scientific and technical information cooperative services between the USSR and more than 40 developing nations includes gross statistical presentations of circulation; collection size; book, pamphlet, and periodical acquisitions and exchanges; readership and visitation data; interlibrary loan; and other indicators of service. (RAA)

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ED210005

IFLA General Conference 1980

Division: Special Libraries

Section: Science and Technology

71/SCIE/2E

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# COOPERATION OF THE USSR NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH LIBRARIES, INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALISTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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# COOPERATION OF THE USSR NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH LIBRARIES, INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALISTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

At present rapid advance of scientific and technological progress can be ensured only by a well organized scientific and technical information service. It should meet information demands of scientific and technological progress with the help of timely, exhaustive and exact presentation of data on achievements of home and foreign science, technology and modern know-how to officials, scientists and specialists.

In the Soviet Union this task is being fulfilled by a State system of scientific and technical information, the basis of which is formed by a network of information organs, scientific, scientific and technical libraries. They are divided into 4 hierarchy levels and are subordinate to various ministries and departments in accordance with the system of management of the national economy.

Fast development of science and technology, increase of information flow demand that every member of the society should constantly bring his/her knowledge up-to-date.

Scientific and technical libraries contribute to solving this task and their activity plays an essential role in the State system of scientific and technical information.

Scientific and technical libraries as well as other special libraries accumulated in their stocks millions of documents which reflect creative activity of many scientists and specialists all over the world. It makes it possible for every interested person to get acquainted with and make use of results of research and practical know-how accumulated throughout centuries.

At present the number of scientific, technical and special libraries of the Soviet Union reached 64.4 thousands, their stock being more than 2 billion items. Annually these libraries serve 42 million information users with more than 1 billion items of literature and documentation.

The major scientific and technical library of our country is the USSR National Public Library for Science and Technology (GPNTB). It was created in October 1958 by a special government decree.

For 20 years of its existence GPNTB acquired more than 10 million items; annually 700-800 thousand items are acquired. The number of foreign journals titles collected by the Library is more than 7.000.

A major role in acquiring foreign literature is played by the international book exchange. GPNTB carries out book exchange with 2317 organizations from 42 countries including 67 organizations from 11 developing countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bangladesh, Ghana, Iran, India, Colombia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanca.

In 1979 978 journals were sent to these countries; 556 journals were received.

Completeness of home literature stock determines its great scientific and cultural value. The Library disposes of the works by founders of natural and technical sciences including collections of works by M.V.Lomonosov, D.I.Mendeleev, N.E.Zhukovski, N.I.Lobachevski, K.E.Tsiolkovski.

There is a unique collection of firm catalogs in GPNTB. It contains more than 2,5 million items of catalogs and leaflets on machinery, instruments, materials and various products manufactured by enterprises and organizations of the USSR as well as foreign firm catalogs and leaflets on all branches of technology.

A large collection of reference literature is available in the Library: abstract journals, bibliographical reference publications on problems of natural and technical sciences issued in our country and abroad.

More than 106 thousand readers - soviet and foreign citizens - regularly make use of the GPNTB collections.

Service of readers is carried out in 3 ways:

- service in reading halls;
- service through interlibrary loan;

- producing and sending copies of separate articles and publications on readers' demands.

More than 2 thousand readers attend the Library every day.

To better serve readers of various categories attending the Library a system of reading halls was set up in GPNTB. It consists of 2 general reading halls and 7 specialized ones.

A particular place among Library readers is occupyed by readers from developing countries, such as: Algeria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Ghana, Guinea, the Dominican Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Zaire, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Kenya, Cyprus, Colombia, Cameroun, Congo, the Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Pakistan, Peru, Ruanda, Salvador, Syria, the Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Uganda, Sri Lanca, Ecuador.

At present 470 readers from developing countries attend GPNTB constantly.

Annually the number of visits is approximately 6000. Scope of readers' interests is very wide. Mainly, readers use literature on fundamental research in such fields of knowledge as mathematics, physics, chemistry, chemical technology, geology, geophysics, location of mineral deposits, industrial and agricultural engineering, energetics, electronic engineering, road building, TV, broadcasting, communications, economy.

The fact should be stressed that the number of readers from developing countries is growing rapidly.

An essential role in serving GPNTB readers plays an interlibrary loan.

GPNTB is an All-Union center of an interlibrary loan on natural sciences and technology. Through the system of the interlibrary loan more than 16 thousand collective users in 1500 settlements of the Soviet Union make use of the Library's stocks.

Annually the Library lends and sends through the interlibrary loan more than 700.000 originals and copies of documents.

Citizens of foreign countries get literature through the international interlibrary loan which is constantly improving its activity.

180 foreign organizations from [illegible] countries addressed GPNTB through the international loan in 1979. Among them there are organizations of the Mongolian People's Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Cuba and Mexico.

A computerized system controlling the work of the interlibrary loan has been functioning in GPNTB since 1969.

Widening and strengthening economic, scientific and technical links of the USSR with developing countries on a long-term, stable and advantageous basis GPNTB conducts wide-range work on sending soviet technical literature to the countries of the South-East Asia, the Near and Middle East and Africa free of charge.

Since 1976 the Library regularly sends soviet books and journals to 28 countries of these regions, such as: Algeria,

Angola, Guinea, Congo, Ethiopia, India, Burma, Sri Lanca and others.

Among addressees of the Library are soviet cultural centers, organizations of UNO ("UNO Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific", "UNO Program on Environment"), institutes and engineers' societies etc.

For 4,5 years GPNTB forwarded only to the soviet cultural centers of these countries about 7000 books of soviet authors in Russian and translated into foreign languages and more than 45000 journals of 128 titles.

Subjects of forwarded literature vary greatly: geology and location of mineral deposits, agriculture, engineering, instrument-making, metallurgy, transport, building, medicine, economy etc.

GPNTB also satisfies separate demands from various organizations of developing countries. For example, on request of the Algerian Permanent Representation of the Ministry of Industry and Energetics in Moscow 144 books on metallurgy and metal-working were sent; to Iran 102 books on problems of environmental protection, seismology, building under seismic conditions, use of solar power were forwarded; to Kenya (Secretariat of "UNO Program on Environment") 143 books in English on environmental protection were sent.

In the collections of GPNTB there is a lot of literature on research carried out lately by research institutions in our country as well as abroad. Between socialist countries

and young developing countries hundreds of various agreements on economic, scientific and technical cooperation are concluded. These agreements foresee additional possibilities for optimum solving key national economic problems presenting mutual interest.

The scope of scientific and technical cooperation of the USSR is very large - from applied research aimed at raising technical level of industrial and agricultural production to fundamental research in the field of nuclear power.

Popularization of soviet scientific and technical literature will contribute to development of national economy and strengthening of economic independence of developing countries, growth of their scientific and technical potential.